

March

# BULLETIN

1944

## C O N V E N T I O N   I S S U E

This issue of  
The Bulletin will  
be devoted to  
a report on

The Fifth Annual Convention of  
THE INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM  
held at

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

on

March 4th and 5th 1944

**"THIS IS THE INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM"**



Published by:  
The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System  
507 Fifth Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.

Editor - Harriette R. Slote

Executive Committee:

George Abraham, Chairman  
3110 W Street SE  
Hillcrest  
Washington, D. C.

David Borst, Technical Manag  
706 Sanders Avenue  
Schenectady, 2, N. Y.

Louis Bloch, Business Manager  
507 Fifth Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.

Harriette R. Slote, Program  
169 Cottage Ave. Manager  
Mount Vernon, N. Y.

---

The Convention was officially opened on Saturday Morning, March 4th with registration of the delegates in the studio of Station CURC at Columbia University.

After registration, the delegates met in Schermerhorn Hall to hear the reports of the Executive Committee. It was regrettable that Chairman, George Abraham, was unable to attend the convention, but his annual report was read to the assembled delegates by David Borst. This speech, I believe, sums up the activities of the IBS so well that I shall reprint it here for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the Convention.

"As this has been my first absence from an IBS convention, let me convey my greetings in absentia and extend my appreciation to you all for your support of the IBS and the field of college radio by your attendance here today.

The 1944 annual meeting of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System is an important landmark in the history of the organization. Now in its fifth year IBS has flourished through the first period of its renaissance. It has successfully survived numerous obstacles, which have resulted in defeat for many other campus and outside organizations. This may be attributed largely to the resourcefulness of its personnel and that of the member stations. This attribute is an essential pre-requisite to the successful operation of any radio station or network. Fortunately ingenuity has never been lacking in the college field.

Though the scope of IBS activities has been considerably extended since its inception in February 1940, the original program and purpose of the organization has not been affected by changing conditions. IBS is still dedicated to education and entertainment on and off the campus. It has always been a non-profit organization -- an important factor in the success



of an educational association. This fact was taken into consideration in a recent decision by the Department of Internal Revenue when the IBS was ruled tax free due to its non-profit status. Important also is the fact that IBS is still democratic as evidenced in small part by the continuance of annual meetings such as this one.

The future for educational radio looks bright. Leaders in education have already given considerable thought towards post war education. A series of conferences at the U.S. Office of Education since the summer indicate that the role of radio in post-war education will be a major one. A report to the FCC requesting additional frequency allocations for education was submitted late in 1943. Included here were provisions for F.M. and A.M. channels on the broadcast and ultra-high frequency portion of the spectrum. IBS has been represented in this planning and has been called upon from time to time for technical and general information. On the whole, federal reactions have been extremely sympathetic to radio in the colleges and it has been pointed out on many occasions that college radio can make its most important contribution as a leader in educational radio and as a training ground -- in addition to the functional task of broadcasting in the respective communities.

Wired-radio will have many applications once equipment is again made available to the public on a large scale. Outside groups have already demonstrated interest both from commercial and manufacturing viewpoints. As a safeguard to IBS the Executive Committee has already undertaken to protect the interests of the organization and the member stations. Federal control and licensing of wired-radio installations is a matter which can now be expected. Standards of engineering practice will be established. Whether or not special provisions will be included for campus stations has yet to be determined. However, it is important that the member stations adhere to the standards and practices prescribed by the IBS Technical Department, which in turn endeavors to have IBS stations conform with the present legal requirements. Subsequent legislation will depend in part upon the adequacy of the present regulations, which in the past have been quite satisfactory from the standpoint of the college stations. Proper observation and successful application of the existing provisions may result in their incorporation to a large extent in the future regulations.

There is a need for improved programming in and among the colleges. This is a matter which will be considered in panels at the convention. Combined effort through program exchange is an effective and efficient way to provide basic programming service. Exchange programs and scripts are a means which allow for reduction in total effort required for programming among a group of stations. Network operation through sponsored programs is one way to accomplish such a function. Both this and alternate methods of group programming merit further thought and discussion.



Technical discussions will no doubt dwell upon procurement, priorities, and radiation in addition to coupling and transmission problems. Consideration also might well be given to future legislation governing carrier-current broadcast --- with particular emphasis on any points that might be included in public interest. This material if properly outlined would be valuable for future recommendations or subsequent action. Another subject of interest primarily to the technical panel are the broadcast standards that should be required of member stations of IBS.

Business Panels which will be devoted, among other things, to commercial programs and possible network operations, might also give consideration to future relations with the foundations.

The post war allocation and use of military communications equipment which according to present indications may be available for use by educational organizations at low cost is a matter for combined technical, business, and program panel discussions.

That new college stations have found it possible to get started during the past year, though confronted by an unavailability of sufficient equipment, personnel, and time is most commendable. Several of these have progressed auspiciously clearly demonstrating how an efficient though limited staff can maintain successful operation and well-rounded schedules.

It is significant that the torch of broadcasting on the campus has been kept aglow during the past two years. The responsibilities of education through radio are most important today. It is my hope as the fifth convention gets under way that IBS will continue its constructive efforts in this direction."

. . . . .

After the Executive Committee reports, the meeting was thrown open to discussion; then the delegates adjourned to Butler Hall for luncheon. Here we had

MR. EARLE McGill

of CBS

as the guest speaker. Mr. McGill, who is the dean of the producer-directors of CBS spoke on programming on the college stations. He indicated that the aspiring writer has an amazing advantage if he can work on a college radio station, and try out his ideas. If the scripts are good enough, there are a number of outstanding shows on commercial stations which will buy free-lance radio scripts from unknown writers. Some of these are: "Armstrong Theatre of the Air",



"Aunt Jenny", "Suspense", "Nick Carter", "Treasury Star Parade" and many others. He suggested that the stations might give the students an outlet for their original plays etc., and then if they were sold to a commercial program, the station might receive a 10% commission, for its use as a test. Then Mr. McGill threw the meeting open to a discussion of programs and ideas for programs at the colleges. Some of the suggestions, ideas, programs, and original material which were brought to light will be described later.

Since the luncheon meeting lasted until about 4:30 in the afternoon, the delegates then returned to CURC to see the station, -----control room, studio, equipment, etc.-----and to carry on informal discussions of their own. At this time there seemed to be general seeking-out of the people who individuals wanted to see to discuss particular problems of interest only to those colleges involved. People began to trickle out of the station, to have dinner, before meeting again to hear the broadcast of Bob Hawk's "Thanks to the Yanks" program at the CBS Radio Theatre. One of the delegates was selected as a contestant on this program, but the time ran out before they got around to her..... Saturday's activities were concluded with a conducted tour of NBC, and if I may be facetious, I should like to mention the extreme nervousness of the poor guide.....He had no idea of what questions were liable to pop up next....and they often did!

On looking back over the programs which struck me as being most original or interesting, the following come to mine: . . . . .

#### RADCLIFFE

"Just Between us Gals"...a student comedy--built around school happenings....

"Music American".....a show patterned after NBC's "Music of the New World".

.....a news program.....the contents of which is telephoned each evening from the "Boston Globe".

#### HARVARD

"Blind Date".....A Harvard boy calls up a Radcliffe girl and tries to make a date. His part of the conversation is broadcast, and if he succeeds, he is given two passes to the University Theatre.

"Jazz Men".....a program handled by a man who used to work for Decca and Metropolitan. He emphasizes the musicians rather than the music.

Classical music programs...ten hours a week....complete with program notes, explanations, etc.



COLUMBIA

The outstanding feature of CURC's programs, as culled from a talk by Bert Mendleson, is that they do not require much preparation. Station Manager Vic Rosenblum hastened to defend the honor of the station, by describing some of their more ambitious undertakings.....  
 "Tomorrow's Horizons"..Charles Campbell discusses issues of the war and post war planning, every Thursday.

Drama group.....one night a week. This show is directed by Bill Hutchins, and his alumni group.  
 "So You Go To College"..a quiz show in which the contestants are picked up off the street. This is one of those shows which does not require such preparation.  
 "Violin Lesson".....good comedy show with infinite possibilities.  
 "Sports Roundtable"....people who are interested in sports talk about timely topics in the world of sport.  
 "Songs for the People"..a program of folk songs.

CURC SCOOPED CBS BY 60 SECONDS ON THE INVASION OF SICILYMARYLAND

"Realms of Mystery"....patterned after Inner Sanctum.....  
 this series only lasted for two broadcasts due to factors beyond the control of the station staff. It was a good show while it lasted...  
 Ed. Note.

BRYN MAWR

"International Hour"...was discussed in the last Bulletin.  
 "Play Parade".....a half-hour radio play, where the emphasis is on production.....  
 sound effects.....etc.  
 "Petunia Plunkett - One Girl Against the World".....  
 a parody on soap operas.....

UNION-

"A Day with the Admiral".program is a humorous take-off on the experiences of men in the Navy unit at Union.  
 "Union Variety Show"...a variety show in which the different platoons compete. This show is an excellent morale builder...anything goes.....  
 "Remaining Standing"...based on "Information Please" technique...Profs and Co are the experts  
 ....gets station in good with the powers that be....!



CORNELL

"Man in the Straight"....show takes place in Willard Straight Hall in the room where cokes, sodas, etc. are dispensed. Use 3 mikes, one for the announcer, one for interview.

"Dramatic Interludes"....American conversation pieces...this program was originally taken from the American Conversation Pieces appearing in PM. Now the scripts are original. It has been presented over WHCU also, by CRG students.

ED. NOTE: On the whole there seems to be a great variety and originality of thought going in to student programming. In spite of the severe shortages of personnel and time, these programs all sound like good ideas, which could easily be adapted for use at colleges other than those where they have originated. THE SCRIPT AND RECORD EXCHANGE STILL NEEDS GOOD PROGRAMS. ANY OF THE ABOVE SHOWS OR OTHERS WOULD BE SUITABLE



## CONVENTION MEETING REPORT, SUNDAY MORNING

The main subject of discussion was means of relaying programs between the colleges, in order to establish a real Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. The guest speaker, Mr. William Hutchins, Columbia '41 was, at the last moment, unable to attend, and so the discussion was led by David Borst, IBS Technical Manager.

Three methods were seen available to permit transmission of live shows among the colleges; Commercial FM, FM links on high frequencies than present commercial FM, and leased telephone wires. Commercial FM has been used by IBS when a series of three shows, 15 minutes long once a week, went out in December 1942 to the colleges and listening audiences of the New England and New York stations which were at that time relaying programs regularly. However these stations ceased to relay, and other programs which had been planned including one featuring Mrs. Roosevelt which reached Columbia and Quaker Network students over the New York station, could not reach the former large IBS audience. This means has two drawbacks. First, the programs are heard by a large non-college group which must therefore be kept in mind, and second the relay is only possible as long as the FM broadcasters are willing. After the war, their cooperation will be hard to obtain.

FM link on higher frequencies would be private, only being heard by the colleges. It would involve the installation of a large number of transmitters, costing anywhere from \$1000 to \$10,000 each, depending upon the quality of equipment, and the judgment of the estimator, as no one can predict exactly what will happen on these frequencies when the war is over and new developments are made known. These stations, if installed by the colleges, would have to be run by licensed operators, presenting another difficulty.

Because FM on these frequencies is limited in range to little more than the visible horizon, only schools relatively close could communicate directly without the aid of repeater stations. One hope for this plan exists. The United States Office of Education is seriously considering State-wide FM networks for primary and secondary school programs, and perhaps the IBS could make use of these stations for relaying at times when the stations were not required by the State educators. Relaying between colleges would then probably mean renting a telephone line to the nearest state owned FM transmitter. In the case of the college originating the program, and receivers for the High frequency FM signals at all colleges desiring to use the program. While the arrangement is complex, it could be made to work without too great an expenditure of money. The special FM receivers could be obtained for two or three hundred dollars, perhaps. A question to be settled is the feasibility of transmitting sponsored shows over such an educational system.

Leased telephone line connections between the colleges, especially those in the East where distances are relatively small, appear to be the most imminent means of network operation. News Week is



considering a five times weekly 10 minute news program, originating in New York, over the Columbia, Yale, Brown, Pembroke, Harvard and Radcliffe stations. The program would be all speech, so a Class D unequalized line would be employed. Since the least time a line may be rented is one hour, 45 minutes would be available to IBS for originating a sustaining program from New York. A line of this type transmits in only one direction, and so programs could not originate directly from other colleges. However, recorded shows from any IBS station could be presented to the stations in this hook-up.

If dramatic shows are to be considered as sustaining shows, background and theme music will appear. In order to achieve passing results, some form of equalization must be applied to the line. It can only be done at the receiving ends of the line if the rental charges are not to be increased. If done by the telephone company equalizing will be expensive. Almost as good results can be obtained with student built equipment. An amplifier having independent control over at least three portions of the audio frequency spectrum is required. Thus, one control would increase the amplification to low frequencies up to about 500 cycles. The second control would control the amplifier gain from about 500 cycles to 2500, the third taking over at that point to enable independent control of the high frequencies above that range. Since Class D lines do not do justice to frequencies below 350 cycles, or above 2500 cycles, the amplifier would be able to restore, to some extent, the correct balance between highs and lows with respect to the middle audio frequencies. How perfect the equalization can be made, depends upon the length of the line. Obviously the low and high frequencies will have to be present to some extent. The amount of extra gain that can be included will depend upon the background noise on the line. Too much low frequency gain will result in a hum or buzz, probably at 60 or 120 cycles. Too much high frequency gain will emphasize hissing, crackling and various frying noises always present on the line. It was felt that before these unavoidable effects became too great that the quality of music reproduction could be improved enough to permit its use as incidental music. An all-music show, it was felt, could not be produced because equalization could never be that complete.

Circuits for equalizing amplifier were promised shortly in the IBS Technical Data Book, especially if the News Week contract is obtained. Since in order to transmit over telephone lines special line amplifier and volume indicating equipment is required, it was viewed unlikely that any school except Columbia in New York would originate programs in the new future. The possibility of running a line from Yale to Columbia was discussed, (the program to be sent out from Columbia to the other schools), but it was agreed that this was not imminent.

Means of cueing remote programs were discussed. Corenll uses "This is the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System" as the standard remote cue, others rely on time signals or other phrases. It was agreed that cue signals from the studio to the remote location were of definite value. At some schools these are sent over a phantom communications circuit which can also be used for communication during the remote broadcast. The Union students reported they were building a remote amplifier to operate on their standard transmission lines at about 150 kc. If this method proves advantageous it will be reported in future issues of the IBS Bulletin.



It does greatly reduce the requirements of remote lines at Union, as their program transmission lines reach every important campus building.

The meeting was well attended, and the discussions which followed the main presentation were enthusiastic and interesting.

D.W. Borst  
Technical Manager

On Sunday Luncheon was at the King's Crown Hotel. At this meeting, there were two Guest Speakers.....

Mr. Playfair  
Author of  
"SINGAPORE GOES OFF THE AIR"

who gave a short but extremely interesting talk on broadcasting activities in the Far East

and  
Mr. MacDonell

of the

#### UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTER

Mr. MacDonell has had extensive radio experience both with CBS and J. Walter Thompson, in this country and abroad. He described radio technique in several foreign countries, and gave us some valuable hints on the dos and donts of writing for radio. He also outlined the responsibility of writing for the ear as well as the eye, and diagrammed the selection of characters for any radio show. Mr. MacDonell warned of the common errors made by many amateur writers, and told us some of the ways in which they could be prevented.

\* \* \* \* \*

Late on Sunday afternoon, a motion was made and seconded that the present members of the Executive Committee continue in their present capacities for the coming year. Since there was not a quorum at the meeting, ballots will be mailed to all of the member stations.

\* \* \* \* \*

With this motion the fifth annual convention of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System came to a close. This convention, although more limited in scope than some of the others, was one of the most successful that we have ever had. It was unfortunate that our Chairman was unable to attend, but pressing government matters made it impossible for him to leave Washington at this time.....

. . . . .



## Delegates at the 1944 IBS Convention

Barnard	Jane Brunstetter Muriel Specter
Brown	Sonia Jane Brown
Bryn Mawr	Margaret Browder Katherine Colvin Betty Lilly
Columbia	Allen Byers Ira Gabrielson Vic Rosenblum Byron St. Clair
Cornell	Eugene Lessere
Harvard	Harold Potter Field J. W. Guinee Richard Kaye Bill Lipmann Frederick Roe
Maryland	Dave Hill
North Carolina	Lucille Culbert
Radcliffe	Eileen Ellis
Swarthmore	Harriet Bender David Linton Charles Valentine
Syracuse	Jana Owens
Union	Bob Brooks Ed Schiffmacher Weston Vivian
Yale	Roger Dissell
IBS	Louis Bloch David W. Borst Joyce Harris Harriet Slote